(b) to (d) Ministry of Law had vetted draft notification for toll collection of this bridge with the comment that toll collection may be stopped after recovery of cost of the bridge, interest, maintenance and special repair expenditures. However, as per the National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) Rules, 1997 made pursuant to the National Highways Act, 1956, the fee for this bridge is to be collected in perpetuity by the executive agency. As such toll collection on this bridge is not to be stopped.

Upgradation of State Highway as NHs in Karnataka

1331. SHRI KB. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Central Government for upgradation of Bidar-Srirangapattanam State Highway into National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, any other State Highway in Karnataka that has been taken up for upgradation as National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The State Government has submitted a proposal for declaration of Bidar-Srirangapattanam State Highway as a National Highway. A portion of the road between Humanabad and Jewargi has already been declared as a National Highway. However, it has not been handed over by the Karnataka Government. There is no proposal for declaration of the balance portion of this road and any other road in Karnataka as a National Highway since at present emphasis is only on upgradation and development of the existing National Highways and not on the declaration of new National Highways.

Road accidents

†1332. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country is reckoned amongst a handful of unfortunate countries in terms of number of road accidents and the people killed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of such accidents particularly in National Capital Region of Delhi has increased enormously during the last four months; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The available road

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

accidents data and fatalities thereof in respect of some selected developed and developing countries during the year 2003 and 2004 are as under:-

SI. No.	Name of the country	Number of road accidents		No. of persons killed in road accident	
		2003	2004	2003	2004
1.	Australia	NA	NA	1,634	1,596
2	Brazil	1,04,863	1,12,457	5,780	6,119
3.	Canada	1,56,904	1,51,321	2,766	2,730
4.	Switzerland	23,840	22,891	546	510
5.	China	NA	NA	NA	1,07,077
6.	Germany	3,54,534	3,39,310	6,613	5,842
7.	France	87,000	85,400	6,060	5,530
8.	United Kingdom	2,14,030	2,07,410	3,508	3,221
9.	India	4,06,726	4,29,910	85,998	92,618
10.	Japan	9,47,993	9,52,191	8,877	8,492
11.	New Zealand	10,615	10,368	461	436
12.	Singapore	6,443	6,845	212	193
13.	Sweden	18,365	18,029	529	480
14.	United States	19,63,000	19,00,000	42,884	42,636

NA- Not available

(b) The information regarding number of road accidents occurred in National Capital Region of Delhi during the last four months is not available. However, as reported by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the road accidents in Delhi have shown declining trends in the last four months of 2007 as compared to the corresponding period of 2006. The details are as under:-

Month	Road accident in the National Capital Territory of Delhi	
	2006	2007
April	765	687
May	780	663
June	724	673
July	821	748

(c) Road accidents and fatalities are caused due to a number of factors such as driver's fault, mechanical defects in the vehicles, fault of pedestrians, bad road, bad weather etc.

The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

(i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

(iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.

(v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country.

(vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/ NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Road accidents

1333. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents that took place in India during the last five years year-wise;

(b) the number of persons who died during the last five years due to road accidents, year-wise; and the steps being taken by Government to minimize the road accidents?